

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES EFFORTS TO HELP PROTECT
NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITIES**

*Requirement will warn incoming residents about North Carolina's
sex offender registration requirement*

RALEIGH -- Gov. Mike Easley today announced a new action to protect North Carolina communities and warn incoming residents about the state's sex offender registration law. Starting June 1, all applicants for a driver's license or identification card will be required to sign a form acknowledging notification of the state law requiring sex offenders to register with their county sheriff's office within 10 days of establishing residency. (*Note to media: See attached form.*)

"The driver's license application procedure is a critical point of contact for thousands of new residents each year," said Easley. "Although state law requires all convicted sex offenders to register with their local sheriff's office, this new measure serves as a reminder to anyone applying for a driver's license in our state that we are serious about protecting North Carolinians."

According to N.C. General Statute 14-208.7, new residents convicted of a sex offense are required to register with local law enforcement within 10 days of establishing residency. Failure to register with the sheriff of the county where the individual lives is a Class F felony.

The need for this new step came to light during a recent N.C. Court of Appeals case. In *State v. Bryant*, the N.C. State Court of Appeals ruled that the state's sex offender registration statute was unconstitutional if applied to an out-of-state offender who was not notified of their duty to register in North Carolina after moving to the state.

"We will continue to fight the challenge to North Carolina's law in court, but these additional steps will instruct criminals about their responsibility under the law," said Attorney General Roy Cooper. "We must help people know about sex offenders in their communities."

Senator Linda Garrou, Rep. Jennifer Weiss and Rep. Verla Insko have introduced legislation that would amend the sex offender statute to include notification in the driver's license application procedure.